

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
October 19, 2015

Chairman Nelson Tift called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall.

Selectboard Members Present: Nelson Tift, Bill Brooks, Gary Fredette, Rose Regula and Mark Tessier.

Others Present: Sandi Switzer and Julie Sharon

Agenda Amendments. None

Minutes. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to approve the Minutes of the October 5, 2015 meeting. Motion carried (4-0). M. Tessier abstained because he was not at that meeting.

Selectboard Orders. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve pay orders totaling \$60,205.25 after \$150 was added for RSMS software for the road network inventory. Motion carried (5-0).

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker did not attend the meeting.

The board discussed resident David White's request to install speed signs on Olde Pine Lane and reflectors on Hillside Drive. The board declined the request.

There was a discussion regarding whether the road foreman should look into the purchase of a used roadside mower. The board agreed to continue annual rentals.

Health Insurance. There was extensive discussion regarding which plan the town should select for employee health insurance and what percentage the town ought to pay in 2016.

G. Fredette noted a federal excise tax known as the "Cadillac Tax" goes into effect in 2018. He said it would levy a 40% tax on the portion of health insurance plans above a certain threshold. He said he did not want employees to be blindsided by major shifts in their plans as a result.

M. Tessier indicated few public or private sector employers pay 100% of employees' premiums.

All board members agreed they were reluctant to take any benefits away from town employees.

B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to continue with the platinum plan with the town paying 100% and eliminating Health Reimbursement Accounts of \$1000 per eligible employee. Motion carried (5-0).

Public Comments. None

NCER Contract Amendment. The board reviewed a request by Jason Linnell of National Center for Recycling to amend an agreement with the town eliminating payments to the municipality for collecting electronic waste at the transfer station.

Town Administrator Sandi Switzer said Rutland County Solid Waste and Agency of Natural Resources representatives were meeting with NCER officials on this matter and hoped to have an update soon.

The board agreed to table any action until more information is available.

Offsite Secure Data Storage. B. Brooks made a motion to approve contracts with NEMRC for the offsite storage of NEMRC at an annual cost of \$500 and CAMA data for an annual fee of \$500. The motion was seconded by G. Fredette.

M. Tessier questioned whether the data could be stored with Sovernet at a lower rate. He offered to explore the matter further.

By consensus, the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Selectboard Comments/Concerns. M. Tessier said he heard a complaint about a water issue on High Street. He noted Minutes from the October 14 Prudential Committee meeting explained a leak on High Street had been repaired.

Other Business/Announcements. B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier authorizing a resident to bring tires dumped on Tift Road to the transfer station at no cost. The motion was approved (5-0).

The board discussed Jerry Florance's complaint regarding his Homerstone Road neighbor's barking dog. Mr. Florance sent an email citing a section of the municipal ordinance regarding impoundment. N. Tift said it was his understanding the town could not go on the property and seize the dog without a court order or warrant. N. Tift requested S. Switzer contact VLCT for advice.

The board agreed with Energy Committee Ken Welch's recommendation not to pursue an electric vehicle charging station at this time.

No board members wished to attend the REDC annual meeting.

N. Tift directed Town Clerk and Treasurer Julie Sharon take \$200 from his annual stipend and send it as a donation to Front Porch Forum.

B. Brooks made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to amend pay orders to add a \$200 payment to Front Porch Forum item. Motion carried (5-0).

S. Switzer notified board members TDI New England wanted to know whether the town would be interested in cross examining any witnesses at PSB technical hearings for the underground transmission line and if there were an objections to testimony and exhibits presented without TDI witnesses appearing at hearings. The board did not express an interest or objection.

The board declined Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce's request to become a member.

Board members reviewed Katherine Wade's letter in response to the town's November 1st deadline to address a junk vehicle complaint at her Sugar Hill Road property. Ms. Wade indicated in her letter the vehicles in question were registered.

S. Switzer said there was a January deadline for a grant application to improve sidewalks. She noted Rutland Regional Planning Commission's Ed Bove had reviewed grant guidelines and said village sidewalks could be part of a large corridor project.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether the town or Fire District #1 was responsible for sidewalk maintenance. The board by consensus agreed the planning commission could, if interested, pursue the larger corridor project while the question of sidewalk maintenance was explored further.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Date Approved: 11/02/15

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator